

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 08016 110923Z

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4354

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 8016

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, RP
SUBJECT: LECHOCO CASE

REF: STATE 127695

IN ACCORDANCE REQUEST PARA 3 REFTEL FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS
PROVIDED.

1. LECHOCO WAS NEVER A MEMBER OF THE PHILIPPINE CONGRESS
NOR, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, WAS HE EMPLOYED BY THE CONGRESS. HE
DID, HOWEVER, HAVE MANY CONGRESSIONAL CONNECTIONS LIKE MOST
FILIPINOS INVOLVED IN STUDENT POLITICS AND POLITICAL LIFE
PRIOR TO MARTIAL LAW. WE UNDERSTAND LECHOCO'S LAST OFFICIAL
POSITION WAS TARIFF COMMISSIONER DESIGNATE. HE WAS APPOINTED
BY MACAPAGAL TOWARD END OF HIS TERM BUT APPOINTMENT NEVER TOOK
EFFECT.

.2. LECHOCO'S LETTER OF NOVEMBER 8, 1974 WAS PERSONALLY GIVEN
TO JUDGE ANTONIO QUIRINO WHEN QUIRINO WAS IN WASHINGTON
AT INVITATION OF US RED CROSS. LECHOCO WAS A FRIEND OF
JUAN DAYANG, GOVERNOR OF PHILIPPINE RED CROSS, WHO ARRANGED
FOR LECHOCO AND QUIRINO TO MEET. IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF,
JUNE 10, JUDGE QUIRINO SAID THAT UPON HIS RETURN TO MANILA
FROM WASHINGTON HE CALLED HIS NEPHEW, AMBASSADOR GARCIA,
CHIEF OF DFA'S OFFICE OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS AND ASKED WHY
LECHOCO'S SON COULD NOT DEPART FOR U.S. GARCIA TOLD
QUIRINO, "DON'T TOUCH THE CASE". SUBSEQUENTLY, GARCIA
SAID MARCOS WAS PERSONALLY INTERESTED IN CASE. QUIRINO
THEN MADE EFFORT SEE GENERAL VER ABOUT SPEAKING TO PRESIDENT
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MARCOS ABOUT YOUNG LECHOCO BUT LECHOCO'S ACTION AT PHILIP-

PINE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON INTERVENED. THUS QUIRINO NEVER
FORMALLY ANSWERED LECHOCO'S LETTER O NOV 8, 1974.
PURNELL

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